☑ 004/020

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for conditionally processing digital objects addressed to a receiver/decoder in a satellite television system comprising:

a satellite signal receiver for receiving a digital object;

a memory for storing the digital object; and,

a control circuit operatively coupled to the receiver and the memory for determining if the digital object is a conditional object, wherein conditional objects are objects which include a rule and an embedded object, the control circuit logically separating the embedded object from the rule if the digital object is a conditional object, the control circuit evaluating the rule to determine how the digital object should be processed.

2. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the control circuit discards the digital object to conserve memory if the rule evaluates to false, and the control circuit stores the digital object in the memory if the rule evaluates to true.

3. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the control circuit displays the digital object if the rule evaluates to true, and waits a period of time before re-evaluating the rule if the rule evaluates to false.

4. (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the period of time is a predetermined period of time.

5.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the period of time is determined by a variable in a rule being updated.

6.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the digital object is used to construct a television program guide.

7.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the digital object is used to compose the content a television channel.

8.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the control circuit determines if the digital object is a conditional object by examining header information indicative of a predetermined object type.

9.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the rule comprises a machine executable language.

10.   (Withdrawn) An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the digital object comprises a plurality of embedded objects wrapped in a cluster protocol.

11.   (Withdrawn) A method for conditionally storing digital objects comprising the steps of:

retrieving a digital object from memory;

determining if the digital object is a conditional object, wherein conditional objects

are objects which include a rule and an embedded object, the rule indicating if the

embedded object should be discarded;

logically separating the embedded object from the rule if the digital object is a

conditional object;

evaluating the rule to determine if the digital object should be discarded;

discarding the digital object if the rule evaluates to false to conserve memory; and,

storing the digital object if the rule evaluates to true.

12.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the digital object is

used to construct a television program guide.

13.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the digital object is

used to compose the content a television channel.

14.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the digital object is

addressed to an integrated receiver/decoder for use in a satellite television system.

15.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the determining

step comprises examining header information indicative of a predetermined object type.

16.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the rule comprises

a machine executable language.

4

17.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the digital object comprises a plurality of embedded objects wrapped in a cluster protocol.

18.   (Withdrawn) A method for conditionally displaying digital objects comprising the steps of:

retrieving a digital object from memory;

determining if the digital object is a conditional object, wherein conditional objects are objects which include a rule and an embedded object, the rule indicating if the embedded object should be displayed;

logically separating the embedded object from the rule if the digital object is a conditional object;

evaluating the rule to determine if the digital object should be displayed;

displaying the digital object if the rule evaluates to true; and,

waiting a period of time before re-evaluating the rule if the rule evaluates to false.

19.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the digital object is used to construct a television program guide.

20.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the digital object is used to compose the content a television channel.

21.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the digital object is addressed to an integrated receiver/decoder for use in a satellite television system.

5

22.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the determining

step comprises examining header information indicative of a predetermined object type.

23.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the rule comprises

a machine executable language,

24.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the period of time

is a predetermined period of time.

25.   (Withdrawn) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the period of time

is determined by a variable in a rule being updated.

26.   (Withdrawn) A method for conditionally displaying a portion of a digital

object comprising the steps of:

retrieving a digital object from memory;

determining if the digital object includes a conditional element, wherein

conditional elements are portions of digital objects wrapped in a protocol containing a

rule, the rule indicating if the portion of the digital object should be displayed;

logically separating the portion from the rule if the digital object includes a

conditional element;

evaluating the rule to determine if the portion should be displayed;

displaying the portion if the rule evaluates to true; and

waiting a period of time before re-evaluating the rule if the rule evaluates to false.

6

U.S. Serial No. 09/534,708
Attorney Docket No. PD-980130

27.   (Withdrawn) A method for conditionally processing a portion of a digital

object comprising the steps of:

retrieving a digital object from memory;

determining if the digital object includes a conditional element, wherein

conditional elements are portions of digital objects wrapped in a protocol containing a

rule, the rule indicating if the portion of the digital object should be processed;

logically separating the portion from the rule if the digital object includes a

conditional element;

evaluating the rule to determine if the portion should be processed;

processing the portion if the rule evaluates to true; and

waiting a period of time before re-evaluating the rule if the rule evaluates to false.

7

28.   (Previously Presented) A method of broadcasting television content and program guide data, the television content divided into a plurality of television channels, each television channel constructed from at least one content component, the program guide data including multiple channel objects, each channel object associated with one of the television channels, each channel object including at least one channel definition that identifies the channel content components including a video component or an audio component needed to construct the television channel associated with that channel object for display, wherein the method comprising:

providing the television content and the program guide data;

adding conditional logic to channel objects that include more than one channel definition, the conditional logic including one or more rules that must be evaluated by a receiver to identify a first channel definition or a second channel definition based on receiver characteristics data representing a characteristic of the receiver, the first channel definition being associated with a first video component or a first audio component, and the second channel definition being associated with a second video component or a second audio component;

combining the television content and the program guide data into an output stream; and

broadcasting the output stream to a plurality of receivers.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is further based on subscription data representing channels to which a user subscribes.

8

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is further based on selection history data representing programs that a user has previously watched.

31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the receiver characteristics data includes geographic location data representing a specific geographic location, and one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on the geographic location data.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the receiver characteristics data includes at least one identification code that uniquely identifies a receiver and one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is based on the identification code.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object is further based on both the current time at the site of the receivers and subscription data representing channels to which users of the receivers subscribe.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein one of the conditions contained in the conditional logic of a channel object associated with a pay per view television channel is further based on the current time at the site of the receivers and

9

pay per view purchase data representing pay per view programs that have been ordered by a user.

36.   (Previously Presented) A method of receiving television content and program guide data that is broadcast from a television broadcasting station, the television content divided into a plurality of television channels, each television channel constructed from at least one channel content component, the program guide data including multiple channel objects, each channel object associated with one of the television channels, each channel object including at least one channel definition that identifies the channel content components including a video component or an audio component needed to construct the television channel associated with that channel object for display, each channel object with more than one channel definition including conditional logic having one or more rules including conditions that must be evaluated to identify an appropriate channel definition based on receiver characteristics data, the method comprising:

receiving the television content and the program guide data by a receiver station that includes a receiver;

storing the program guide data in a memory;

receiving a tuning request that selects a television channel;

responding to the tuning request by evaluating the conditions in the one or more rules of the channel object associated with the selected television channel and identifying a first channel definition or a second channel definition for that television channel based on receiver characteristics data representing a characteristic of the receiver, the first channel definition being associated with a first video component or a first audio component, and the second channel definition being associated with a second video component or a second audio component; and

10

generating an output of the selected television channel, the output including the

channel content components identified by the first channel definition or the second

channel definition.

37.   (Previously Presented) A system for receiving television content and

program guide data that is broadcast from a television broadcasting station, the television

content divided into a plurality of television channels, each television channel constructed

from at least one channel content component, the program guide data including multiple

channel objects, each channel object associated with one of the television channels, each

channel object including at least one channel definition that identifies the channel content

components including a video component or an audio component needed to construct the

television channel associated with that channel object for display, each channel object with

more than one channel definition including conditional logic having one or more rules

including conditions that must be evaluated to identify an appropriate channel definition

based on system characteristics data representing a characteristic of the system, the

method comprising:

    a receiver for receiving the television content;

    a memory for storing received program guide data;

    a controller coupled to the memory, the controller receiving a tuning request that

selects a television channel, the controller responding to the tuning request by evaluating

the conditions in the one or more rules of the channel object associated with the selected

television channel and identifying a first channel definition or a second channel definition

for that television channel based on system characteristics data representing a

characteristic of the system, the first channel definition being associated with a first video

11

component or a first audio component, and the second channel definition being associated

with a second video component or a second audio component; and

    display means for generating an output of the selected television channel, the

output including the channel content components identified by the first channel definition

or the second channel definition.

    38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the first channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has purchased a program or an event, and wherein the second channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has not purchased a program or an event.

    39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has purchased a program or an event, and wherein the second channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has not purchased a program or an event.

    40.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the first channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has purchased a program or an event, and wherein the second channel

definition comprises a channel definition defining channel content components associated

with a user who has not purchased a program or an event.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiver characteristics data representing the characteristic of the receiver indicates a model number associated with a receiver.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the conditional logic instructs the receiver to select the first channel definition if the model number is greater than a predetermined number and instructs the receiver to select the second channel definition if the model number is less than the predetermined number.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiver characteristics data representing the characteristic of the receiver indicates whether or not the receiver includes a software capability.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiver characteristics data representing the characteristic of the receiver indicates whether or not that receiver includes a hardware component.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the receiver characteristics data representing the characteristic of the receiver indicates a status of the receiver.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the receiver characteristics data representing the characteristic of the receiver indicates a model number associated with the receiver.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein the system characteristics data representing the characteristic of the system indicates a model number associated with the system.

13